Kallanish Energy

Texas completes new seismic monitoring system

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Texas has a new seismic network in place to keep track of earthquakes linked to drilling and injection wells, **Kallanish Energy** learns.

The earthquake monitoring system, called TexNet, includes 80 stations statewide. It features a new interactive website where the public can follow seismic activity in Texas in real time.

The system was installed by the University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology and has been called the most-advanced state-run seismic monitoring system in the U.S. It was authorized by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and the state Legislature in June 2015, with $4.47 million in state funding.

Texas, like Oklahoma and other states, has experienced an increase in the number of earthquakes during the past decade, especially in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the Permian Basin in West Texas and the Eagle Ford Shale in south-central Texas.

Most of the quakes have been linked to injecting liquid drilling wastes into underground rock formations.

The seismic monitoring system is being operated in parallel with the Center for Integrated Seismicity Research (CISR), a multidisciplinary research team led by bureau research scientist Peter Hennings and Professor Ellen Rathje in the Cockrell School of Engineering's Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering. CISR is conducting fundamental research to better understand natural and induced earthquakes in Texas.

TexNet and CISR include research partners from Southern Methodist University, Texas A&M University, the Southwest Research Institute and other institutions.

Said bureau director Scott W. Tinker, who led the formation of TexNet in 2015: “Small earthquake events have become more common in Texas recently, and we are now positioned to learn more about them and, hopefully, to understand how to mitigate their impacts in the future.”

TexNet includes 40 permanent seismic stations and 40 portable stations. The portable stations are being used in areas with increased seismicity, such as in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, South Texas and West Texas in the Delaware Basin and Snyder area.

For more information, go to www.beg.utexas.edu/texnet.